

Approved For Release 1999/09/17 :

RICHMOND, VA.  
NEWS-LEADER

e. 123,051

Front Page Edit Page Other Page

Date: MAY 6 1964

CPYRGHT

Now as the former Richmonder prepares to embark on a new career—he will become a vice president in the international division of Morgan Guaranty Trust Co. on July 1—his thoughts still turn to the latter assignment, the most important and controversial of his career.

## WEEK END INTERVIEW

Consider what he had to say in an interview in his family home at 806 Park ave. this past week end:

- The struggle against the Viet Cong insurgency in Viet Nam was being won under the government of President Ngo Dinh Diem.
- The overthrow of Diem last November was a "costly error" that cost the South Vietnamese forces momentum they are still trying to regain.
- The coup was "stimulated" by certain actions and attitudes of the United States government.

## REPLACED BY LODGE

(Some reports say Nolting was replaced as ambassador to Viet Nam because of his support of the Diem regime. Diem reportedly had been engaged in religious persecution of Buddhist monks. Nolting was replaced last August by Henry Cabot Lodge. A military junta overthrew and slew Diem in early November.)

The tall, polished Virginian, says today that Diem was not only winning the war but that "the Buddhist agitation, as is now generally recognized, had a political motive and had

## CIA ABSOLVED

"The CIA was not free-wheeling or making policy on its own in Viet Nam. Our government's influence and actions last fall—which I think were costly errors of judgment—can not in fairness be attributed to the CIA, which acted in a disciplined manner."

• The new leader, General Khanh, whom Nolting knew "quite well," is a "good soldier, a man of ability and imagination, and one who, I believe, has sound and good intentions for his people."

made, if any, basis in religious grievances."

• Contrary to some press speculation, the Central Intelligence Agency should not be blamed for the overthrow of Diem.



FORMER AMBASSADOR FREDERICK E. NOLTING JR. (Staff Photo)

# War in Viet Nam Fateful: Nolting

CPYRGHT

By TYLER WHITLEY

When Frederick E. Nolting Jr. exchanges his diplomat's attache case for a businessman's brief case next month, he will take with him memories of 17 years of government service.

The memories span a career that took him to Paris as alternate representative to NATO and finally to Saigon, as American ambassador to South Viet Nam.

CPYRGHT